



City Administrator's Report

June 2003

Dear Reader,

This monthly report provides summary information and updates on major activities, events, projects, and programs that impact the Santa Barbara community. Feel free to give us your comments and suggestions.

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Key Meetings:

June 3, 10, 17, 24 Council Meetings

Flags on State Street:

June 1 - 3	Memorial Day, observed May 26 th (American Flags)
June 3 - 10	Big Dog Foundation, parade June 7 th
June 10 - 16	Flag Day, observed June 14 th (American Flags)
June 16 - 27	Summer Solstice, celebration June 21 st
June 27 - July 8	Independence Day, observed July 4 th (American Flags)

Concerts in the Park at Chase Palm Park, 6 - 8:30 p.m.

June 12	The Platters - Classic Hits from the '50s
June 19	Upstream - Roots Rock Reggae
June 26	Benise - Nouveau Flamenco

Community Events:

June 7	Big Dog Parade and Canine Festival - Parade starts at 9:30 a.m. on State Street from De la Guerra Plaza to Old Chase Palm Park, where the festival runs 10:30 a.m. 2 p.m.
June 14	Santa Barbara Caribbean Festival - Oak Park, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
June 21	Summer Solstice Celebration - Parade starts at noon on State Street from Cota to Micheltorena Streets - Festival follows at Alameda Park, 1 - 8 p.m.

City Administrator

Budget process nears completion

City Council is scheduled to adopt the fiscal year 2004 operating and capital budget on June 24th. Final public hearings on the budget occur during the June 10th afternoon and evening Council sessions. At the evening session, Council will provide staff with final direction on the budget. Staff will then return to Council on June 24th with the adopting resolutions.

Mayor and Council call for Patriot Act repeal

Defending the constitutional privacy rights of Santa Barbara residents, Mayor Marty Blum last month strongly urged our Congressional delegates to monitor – and work to repeal – legislation that threatens U.S. civil rights and liberties. In a detailed letter drafted by a City Council subcommittee, Mayor Blum expressed concern that the USA PATRIOT Act (Public Law 107-56) and the Homeland Security Act violate fundamental, democratic freedoms.

With full support of City Councilmembers, the letter cited and called into question specific orders and rules that grant the executive branch “unprecedented and extensive surveillance powers.” In the letter, City Council acknowledges the potential dangers of terrorist activities, and affirms the City’s strong support for fundamental rights guaranteed by the U.S. and California State Constitutions.

Council has also directed the City Administrator to:

- Encourage any federal, state, or county agency acting within the City to work in accordance with the policies and procedures of the City, and when cooperating with City departments;
- Continue to guarantee the fundamental constitutional rights of all Santa Barbara residents; and
- Post notices in public libraries, informing library patrons that federal agents may obtain records of books and materials borrowed and web sites accessed on library computers.

To view the entire letter, go to: http://www.secure.ci.santa-barbara.ca.us/departments/mayor_and_council/internet_posting/letters/blum_-_patriot_act_to_capps.pdf OR

From the main City Web site, go to <http://www.ci.santa-barbara.ca.us/> Select Mayor and Council from the City Hall section of the Quick Selections. On the Mayor and Council page, click on the Letters link.

Inside Santa Barbara

Inside Santa Barbara - The June episode includes: the City’s ongoing efforts to enforce and educate motorists about pedestrians’ rights in crosswalks; a look back at Bike Week 2003; how the City Public Works Department is saving time and money while rehabilitating sewer mains; a visit to the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum; the new no smoking regulations on Stearns Wharf; and the sights and sounds of the Irish Festival.

This edition of ***Inside Santa Barbara*** premieres on Saturday, June 7th at 9 p.m. on CITY TV, Channel-18. The program replays each week on Monday at 8 p.m., Tuesday at 5 p.m., Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., Saturday at 9 p.m., and Sunday at 10:30 p.m. A new episode airs at the beginning of each month.

For more information, contact Tony Ruggieri, 564-5311, CITY TV, Channel-18; or visit www.citytv18.com.

Airport Department

New T-hangars for private aircraft

A contract with Mead & Hunt for 20 new private aircraft T-hangars is currently in Phase I, which includes a site selection study and construction cost estimate. The firm will also prepare a survey for prospective T-hangar tenants, and meet with them to discuss the project and receive input. The project design phase is scheduled to begin this month, with construction planned for spring 2005.

Airport Noise Study resumes

Updating the Airport's Noise Compatibility Program is an important element in Santa Barbara Airport's continuing efforts to be a good neighbor while providing vital transportation services. The \$379,000 Federal Aviation Administration grant-funded contract with Coffman & Associates will assist the Airport in promoting aircraft noise control and land use compatibility. Noise analyses using computer modeling and acoustical measurements are underway. Plans for a July workshop are underway. For information, contact Airport Operations Manager Tracy Lincoln, 692-6025.

Verhelle Bridge Project in permitting phase

URS and Penfield & Smith are the firms under contract to complete permitting for the design phase of the Verhelle Bridge Project. The bridge—which is 30+ years old and in need of repair—provides access to the Ampersand facility from Fairview Avenue over San Pedro Creek. Cost for this design phase is \$171,000 with construction expected to begin next summer.

Community Development Department

City wins two APA Awards

At the May 16th Awards Dinner in Shell Beach, the City of Santa Barbara won American Planning Association Awards from the Central Coast Chapter for Casa De Las Fuentes, an affordable housing project, and for the Santa Barbara Airport Aviation Facilities Plan (AFP). The Casa Las Fuentes project at the corner of Carrillo and Castillo Streets, won an award for project planning for its high quality design and innovative approach to providing downtown worker housing. AFP's project implementation earned kudos for airfield safety improvements and its airline terminal expansion plan. Congratulations are in order to all involved.

Planning Commission schedule

The Planning Commission has several special items and events on the schedule for June, including:

Housing Element Update - On June 5th, the Planning Commission discussed the Draft Land Inventory and Housing Production Opportunities Chapter of the Housing Element. On June 26th, the Planning Commission will hold a workshop at the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room from 9 a.m. to noon to discuss Housing Element policies.

Affordable Housing Tour - On June 25th, the Planning Commission will join the County Planning Commission and others to tour good examples of affordable housing projects on the South Coast.

Fess Parker's DoubleTree Resort - On June 12th, the Planning Commission will consider proposed amendments to the operation of the DoubleTree's conference facility. The changes would allow use by larger groups of both hotel and non-hotel guests, among other condition changes.

Cottage Hospital - The Planning Commission and the Architectural Board of Review will hold a site visit to the Cottage Hospital reconstruction area and have a concept review of the hospital's proposed plans. For date and time, contact Project Planner Irma Unzueta, 564-5470.

Chapala One (401/415 Chapala Street) - This project involves demolition of the Building Trades Union Hall and a used car dealership to construct a new mixed-use commercial and residential project - including 46 residential units, 10 of which will be affordable housing. In June, the Planning Commission and Historic Landmarks Commission will hold a joint meeting to discuss design issues. A public hearing will be scheduled to take comments on the Draft Negative Declaration.

Finance Department

Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT)

As shown in the table below, the April TOT (collected in May) was down approximately 3.7 percent from the prior fiscal year. While not good news, this figure is fairly consistent with our (revised) expectations. On a budgetary basis, we need to grow 1.4 percent to meet budget this year, and we are up 1.7 percent year-to-date.

	FY 2001	Change from Prior Year	FY 2002	Change from Prior Year	FY 2003	Change From Prior Year
July	\$ 1,204,593	11.3%	\$ 1,171,041	-2.8%	\$ 1,183,951	1.1%
Aug	1,246,973	7.9%	1,276,212	2.3%	1,328,278	4.1%
Sept	952,314	14.1%	808,657	-15.1%	849,174	5.0%
Oct	839,946	3.7%	790,919	-5.8%	830,054	4.9%
Nov	691,398	13.2%	653,829	-5.4%	684,776	4.7%
Dec	594,145	16.2%	539,598	-9.2%	529,694	-1.8%
Jan	578,703	9.4%	511,090	-11.7%	583,413	14.2%
Feb	628,764	9.4%	611,322	-2.8%	616,824	0.9%
Mar	769,047	5.6%	783,829	1.9%	704,942	-10.1%
April	810,450	0.8%	822,209	1.5%	791,800	-3.7%
YTD totals	\$ 8,316,333	8.8%	\$ 7,968,706	-4.2%	\$ 8,102,907	1.7%

Fire Department

Wildland fire preparation

Neighborhood Outreach - A neighborhood outreach meeting was held at St. Mary's Seminary on May 12th. About 65 citizens participated to learn more about how they can minimize damage to their property from a wildland fire.

Riviera Door-to-Door - Some 60 citizens, volunteers, and local governmental agencies went door-to-door in the Riviera area of the City's high fire zone to promote personal responsibility for homeowners, including safety and planning. About 300 homes were visited on May 31st.

Wildland Fire Plan - During May, the City's proposed Wildland Fire Plan was reviewed from a scoping perspective by the City's Planning Commission.

Mailer to Fire Hazard Areas - Also in May, the City Fire Department sent 4,500 mailers encouraging all residents within the City's high fire hazard area to use the prescribed method of fuel mitigation.

Fire Season Preparations - The City Fire Department hosted the 2003 Pre-Fire Season update and barbeque at Skofield Park on May 29th. The approximately 150 attendees included fire agencies from Southern California, volunteer groups, homeowner groups, and a special grant award ceremony. State Farm Insurance Company provided Santa Barbara Fire Safe Council with \$32,200 for wildland fire public education.

Library Department

Summer reading programs set

"Lights! Camera! Read!," the children's summer reading program, and "Reading Road Trip U.S.A.," the teen summer reading program, begin on June 16th and run through August 11th. Young readers can keep up their literacy skills over the summer while discovering new books and authors. After reaching various reading milestones, participants receive prizes from the Library and from local businesses. Summer programs include puppet theatre, ventriloquism, and storytelling for the younger crowd. Teens can prove they *do* know everything by participating in movie and TV trivia contests.

Parks and Recreation Department

Safe summer for kids

Summer school programs have been severely reduced in response to the state budget crisis, leaving a great number of children without supervised activities this summer. The Parks and Recreation Department staff have been working with the Police Activities League, United Way, and other local youth organizations to expand recreation programs for children. With generous support by local foundations, the Safe Summer for Kids collaboration will provide safe, fun, and enjoyable recreation for more than 500 youth this summer.

Groundbreaking ceremony at Bohnett Park

The City held a groundbreaking ceremony for the Old Mission Creek Restoration Project at Bohnett Park on June 6th. Remarks were made by Councilmember Rusty Fairly, and Parks and Recreation Commission Chair Beebe Longstreet. Construction is scheduled to begin the following week and will occur over a three-month period. This is the first restoration project for the Creek Division, and one of the first Council goals for the Creek Restoration and Water Quality Improvement Program.

Summer Concerts in the Parks series begin on June 12th with The Platters

Break out the lawn chairs, your dancing shoes, a picnic basket, and get ready to enjoy another season of 18 free concerts in two of Santa Barbara's most beautiful parks. Bring your friends and family to the meadow at Chase Palm Park on Thursday evenings beginning June 12th, or relax at Alameda Park on Sunday afternoons beginning July 6th. See the full summer schedule at www.sbparksandrecreation.com; or call 897-1982 for a brochure.

Solstice and Independence Day

The Summer Solstice Parade and Festival take place on June 21st. The City is sponsoring the July 4th Fireworks Show at West Beach at 9 p.m.; Sparkle will host their annual Beach Party and coordinate food and craft vendors along Cabrillo Blvd. For more information, contact Nancy Rapp, 564-5420.

Teen speak-out well attended

More than 150 teens packed City Council chambers to share their thoughts and concerns on teen suicide and youth violence. The two and a half hour dialogue on May 19th was facilitated by local educators, school counselors, and Hospice counselors. In follow up, the Santa Barbara Youth Council will prepare a report on issues, information, and recommendations for consideration by local government and educational institutions.

Youth Leadership Awards Banquet

The 2nd Annual Youth Leadership Awards Banquet was held on June 2nd at the Cabrillo Pavilion Arts Center. Teen Programs hosted the event which honored 34 youngsters from 14 youth service agencies, with awards for Outstanding Community Service, Academic Accomplishment, and Personal Achievement.

44th Annual City Golf Championship on Memorial Day weekend

This year's event at the Santa Barbara Golf Club drew 90 top amateur golfers in the championship flight, and 180 others in six flights. More than 90 clubs from all over Southern California were represented. The large turnout is attributed to the increasing popularity of the game, the reputation of the course, and the draw of Santa Barbara. The tourney was won by Santa Barbara resident Don DuBois.

Police Department

SBPD LIVE TV Show on Public Access Channel 17

A new, Santa Barbara TV show aired on May 15th. The 30-minute, SBPD Live program—hosted by Andy Hill and Scott Naganuma—featured segments on the past week's Crime Summary, Santa Barbara's Most Wanted Fugitives, plus an overview of the organizational structure and different units of the Department. Andy and Scott also fielded several interesting phone calls. The show airs live every Thursday at 7:30 p.m., with two re-broadcasts.

Four-legged fugitive captured after four years on the run

The adult, male pot bellied pig that has been loose in the area of Parma Park the past four years has finally been caught. Animal Control Officers Marko Mendoza, Jeff Deming, and Guy Hernandez from the Santa Barbara Humane Society were able to tranquilize and transport the 250 pound pig with six-inch tusks to the Humane Society. The pig was not very happy about the entire situation and charged at the officers at every opportunity. He will be picked up by a pot-bellied pig rescue group from Ojai at the end of this week.

Memorial Day weekend arrests and citations

Four driving-under-the-influence arrests were made during Memorial Day weekend in Santa Barbara. Police officers also fanned out across the City to write citations for people not wearing seatbelts. Over a period of 16 hours, 126 drivers and passengers received seatbelt citations.

Public Works Department

Two haulers will serve Santa Barbara

Starting the week of June 9th, MarBorg Industries will begin providing all solid waste collection services to the eastern half of the City. Residents and businesses to the west and south of State Street will continue with BFI (this applies to all City facilities as well). For the past several months, staff has been working with both haulers to ensure a smooth transition. There will be no changes to rates or billing. For information, call Solid Waste Specialist Stephen MacIntosh, 897-1908.

Recycling containers coming to State Street

Under City Council-approved policies, the City will strive to divert 60 percent of its solid waste from landfills by the year 2005, and 70 percent by the year 2010. In this spirit, staff has been working on a number of recycling programs, including the installation of recycling containers along State Street. The new containers will be installed on State Street (between Sola and Ortega Streets) in June.

Pedestrian Master Plan

Alta Design + Consulting will begin work on the Pedestrian Master Plan this month. For information, call Mobility Coordinator Dru van Hengel, 564-5544.

Neighborhood Traffic Management Program

Through the end of June, residents in the neighborhood around St. Francis will be collecting opinions about the traffic calming plan they've developed. Design and construction of traffic calming improvements are dependent upon neighborhood and Council adoption of the plan. For information, call Mobility Coordinator Dru van Hengel, 564-5544.

City receives Gold-Level Award from League of American Bicyclists

The League of American Bicyclists has designated the first recipients of its Bicycle-Friendly Community awards. The City is one of 14 communities around the United States recognized for providing safe accommodations and facilities for bicyclists, and for encouraging residents to bike for transportation and recreation.

Sheffield Water Quality Project update

Construction is underway for two temporary reservoirs. The reservoirs will provide needed water storage during the second phase of construction beginning in September, which will replace the existing Sheffield Reservoir with two buried, 6.5 million-gallon reservoirs.

Cater Water Treatment Plant Improvements Project

To meet more stringent federal water quality standards, the Cater Water Treatment Plant is currently being upgraded. Construction began in 2002 and is expected to be completed in 2004.

City earns Transportation Project of the Year Award

The State Street Sidewalk Improvements Project (Third Phase) received the American Public Works Association 2003 Project of the Year Award for Transportation Projects less than \$2 million in the Southern California Chapter area. To enhance the pedestrian experience, the project provides new brick sidewalks, landscaping, a fountain, and decorative lighting on the 600 and 700 blocks of State Street.

Emergency Generator at El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant

Installation of an emergency generator at the El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant is completed. The new generator has sufficient capacity to power the entire plant in the event of an electrical power loss.

Storm Water Management Program

The Creeks Advisory Committee will review the City's Storm Water Management Program (SWMP) on June 18th. SWMP is a requirement of the Clean Water Act, and describes how the City will implement water quality best-management practices.

Waterfront Department

Sea Mammals Washing Ashore in Santa Barbara County

A naturally occurring marine toxin called Domoic Acid Poison (DAP) has returned to the State's marine environment and could once again be the cause of death of marine mammals and seabirds washing ashore in southern and central California.

May reports from several agencies within Santa Barbara County show:

- 141 mammals (including 5 dolphin) infected
- 0 seabirds infected

Santa Barbara Harbor Patrol assists the Marine Mammal Center (MMC) with capturing sick and injured sea lions in the harbor. Harbor Patrol takes the captured animals to the MMC barge where the animals are picked up and taken to a rehabilitation center. Harbor Patrol reports dead sea lions on the beach to Parks & Recreation. Then, Parks & Recreation completes the required forms and buries the animals. Over the past two weeks, Harbor Patrol has captured five sick sea lions (seven others eluded capture and were apparently healthy enough to swim away).

People are urged to call the following numbers when coming across a stranded mammal on the beach.

- Sea Lions: Santa Barbara Marine Mammal Center, 687-3255
- Dolphins: Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, 682-4711
- Live Seabirds: Wildlife Care Network, 966-9005

Shellfish Quarantines

Domoic Acid Poison (DAP) can harm humans who digest certain shellfish. In 1997 on Canada's Prince Edward Sound, three people died and nearly 100 others fell violently sick from an outbreak of the poison in mussels. As a result U.S. coastal states have imposed a ban on shellfish harvesting once a domoic acid algae bloom is detected.

Last month, public health officials renewed the annual quarantine on sport-harvested mussels, which is in effect from May 1st to October 31st. This quarantine affects all species of mussels taken by the public anywhere on the California coast, including all bays and estuaries. The California Department of Health Services has detected high-levels of DAP in mussels, oysters, sardines and anchovies throughout the California central and southern coasts.

For updated information about quarantines and shellfish toxins, call California Department of Health Services shellfish information line, (800) 553-4133.

Boating safety

Life jacket safety is the message this year from the National Safe Boating Council. During National Safe Boating Week (May 17-23), Captain Steve McCullough and the Santa Barbara Harbor Patrol headed up local efforts on May 20th to promote the 2003 North American Safe Boating Campaign. The day's highlights included in-water Personal Floatation Device (PFD) demonstrations, a press conference, plus statements from Capt. McCullough, United States Coast Guard, and Power Squadron representatives.

Administrative Services

Current Job Openings

Open Recruitments

Office Specialist II	Continuous
Senior Office Specialist	Continuous
Geographic Information Systems Technician	Closes 6/9/2003
Rental Housing Mediation Specialist	Closes 6/9/2003
Wastewater System Manager	Closes 6/13/2003
Executive Secretary	Closes 6/20/2003
Risk Analyst	Closes 6/27/2003

Promotional Recruitments

Recreation Supervisor/Aquatics	Closes 6/6/2003
Traffic Technician I/II	Closes 6/20/2003